



Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Erin Verplank or Zachary Burton at Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

MEETING SUMMARY

July 28, 2015

Introductions around the room – Jim Ake

Larry Clarino is looking for a snow plow firm to do work in Oak Manor. If interested, contact Larry: larryc@dizzyc.com

Q and A - Chuck Lehman

Mayor Cook was absent. Council President Chuck Lehman took his place for Q&A. Mentioned groundbreaking at Grand Park for Field House, also Cambria Suites development has started moving dirt as of last week. City Council has heard proposals from Riverview regarding property development as well. Did some approval on SW corner that will include a hotel. Stormwater policy review will begin soon. Changes will likely not impact residents at all or at least very little.

Speed limit changes along 161st Street in the interest of public safety. Each time new developments happen, these ordinances are updated.

Council is looking at budgeting process for next year. Rainy Day Fund is upwards of \$5M. Hired a firm years ago that comes in and does an internal audit, they are very conservative, totally independent and have projections for 5 years out/10 years out. City faces some challenges in terms of increased allowance from State (2.4% increase) vs. growth that Westfield has had.

Also discussed newsletter opportunity with the Current that would help folks that don't have a Westfield address.

Metronet Update

West ring is almost completed. Construction is progressing. Have been meeting with the city public works department regularly, but rain has slowed us down a bit. Chris Bluto encouraged people to get in touch with him so that when Metronet is coming into neighborhoods, they know who to contact to alert residents that work is about to begin.

Ray's Trash Review – Calvin Davidson

Celebrating 50th year as a company. Built a new recycling facility, high tech machines that sort out all the materials. Located on the West side of Indianapolis. Would welcome the opportunity for tours if interested. Provided a handout regarding do's and don't's of what to throw away and how.

Central Indiana Regional Economic Dev.

Indy Chamber presentation – Indy Chamber is in its 125th year. Currently working on the Regional Cities Initiative. Program comes at a time when cities and nine counties have come together on a new regional development strategy. CICEO started in 2009. That group of mayors works on a lot of regional issues.

Program is directed not so much at cities, but of regions of cities. Population growth of the state will center around half a dozen nodes of cities. Our competition is regional: Indy vs Austin, not Indy vs. Westfield. It's not just about relocating companies or low costs, it's about quality of life (transit, trails, green spaces).

Applications were due July 1st, extended to August 31st. Need a regional development plan, a regional development authority, regional cooperation. This opportunity is called a CEDS which provides for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Benchmarked ourselves against Denver CO, Nashville TN, and Columbus OH.

Key Pillars of CEDS: educated and talented workforce, creative and enterprising business, attractive and connected places, vibrant and inviting image. Important: We've got to develop a brand for Indianapolis. We don't have a good or bad image – we don't have an image.

Regional trails assistance would also be a part of the improvements.

Wrap-up -Jim Ake

Jim asked the group for ideas for future meetings, specifically relating to the city's finances/budgeting process. List will be compiled by Zach Burton, and a presentation will follow at next meeting in August.

Jim concluded the meeting at 8:30 p.m.